

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JIM ELLIOTT**, on February 15, 2005 at 8:04 A.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jim Elliott, Chairman (D)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)
Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kathleen Ely, Committee Secretary
Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 272, 2/10/2005; SB 361,
2/10/2005; SB 362, 2/10/2005
Executive Action: None.

00:00:52

HEARING ON SB 272

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. KEN TOOLE (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SB 272, Progressive gross receipts tax for big box stores.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:09:15 Gene Fenderson, Progressive Labor Caucus

[EXHIBIT\(tas37a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tas37a02\)](#)

00:20:00 Darrell Holzer, Montana AFL-CIO

[EXHIBIT\(tas37a03\)](#)

00:24:46 Don Judge, Teamster Local 190

[EXHIBIT\(tas37a04\)](#)

00:28:03 Kate Mrgudic, social worker

00:30:31 Judy Smith, Montana Fair Share Network

[EXHIBIT\(tas37a05\)](#)

00:35:37 Kim Abbott, WEEL

00:36:37 Tim Davis, Smart Growth Coalition

00:38:08 Tom Bilodean, MEA-MFT

00:40:59 Cedron Jones

[EXHIBIT\(tas37a06\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:45:38 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association

00:49:02 SEN. KEITH BALES, SD 20

[EXHIBIT\(tas37a07\)](#)

00:52:42 Bruce Spencer, Montana Auto Dealers Association

00:57:08 Robert Rule

00:59:44 John McKay, Regional Vice-President, COSTCO

01:05:52 Rusty Van Overbeck

01:08:34 Greg Duncan, Queen City Land Development

01:10:33 Tom Simkins, Simkins Halley Lumber Company, Bozeman

EXHIBIT(tas37a08)

01:15:59 Jon Schontz, Lee Enterprises
01:20:56 Mike Wall, Power Townsend
01:22:07 Doug Nulle, retired California attorney
01:23:51 Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce
01:25:22 Carl Schweitzer, Bozeman Chamber of Commerce,
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
01:27:36 Ronda Carpenter-Wiggers, Great Falls Chamber of
Commerce, Helena Chamber of Commerce
01:29:39 Steve Snezak, Montana Association of Realtors
01:30:12 Charles Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce,
County Commissioners,
01:30:56 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent
Businesses
01:31:14 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association
01:32:23 Bob Hamm

Informational Testimony:

01:33:11 Gene Walborn, Department of Revenue

01:33:49

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:53:09

Closing by Sponsor:

EXHIBIT(tas37a09)

02:03:44 Break.
02:08:32 Committee resumes.

02:09:01 **SEN. HARRINGTON** assumes the Chair.

02:09:44

HEARING ON SB 361 AND SB 362

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. JOE BALLYEAT (R), SD 34, opened the joint hearing on **SB 361 AND SB 362**, Interim study to prepare a sales tax to replace income tax.

EXHIBIT(tas37a10)

EXHIBIT(tas37a11)

02:09:01 **SEN. TOOLE** assumes the Chair.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:30:44 Ken Reo

Opponents' Testimony:

02:34:46 Tom Billodean, MEA-MFT

02:36:48 Don Judge, Teamster Local 190

Informational Testimony:

02:43:26 Shona McHugh, Department of Revenue

02:43:43

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

EXHIBIT (tas37a12)

02:49:58 SEN. STORY arrives.

02:53:05

Closing by Sponsor:

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:06 A.M.

SEN. JIM ELLIOTT, Chairman

KATHLEEN ELY, Secretary

JE/ke

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tas37aad0.PDF](#))